

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0051] with the following amended paragraph:

[0051] The protective sleeve 240 is made of any suitable material including but not limited to polyurethane, neoprene, nitrile ~~or fluoroelastomer, other rubber, other elastomeric or plastic material,~~ fluoroelastomer, brass, bronze, stainless steel, other rubber, other elastomeric/plastic material, other metal or a combination of the above mentioned material.

Please replace paragraph [0057] with the following amended paragraph:

[0057] The protective sleeve 340 is made of any suitable material including but not limited to polyurethane, neoprene, nitrile ~~or fluoroelastomer, other rubber, other elastomeric or plastic material,~~ fluoroelastomer, brass, bronze, stainless steel, other rubber, other elastomeric/plastic material, other metal or a combination of the above mentioned material.

Please replace paragraph [0059] with the following amended paragraph:

[0059] Thanks to substantially large elastic deformation range of the ~~elastomeric~~ resilient sealing material, the protective sleeve 240 and 340 are able to provide effective sealing in large axle diameter range and in large bearing backing diameter range, allowing direct applications of the arrangements presented in Figure 2 and Figure 3 on large population of existing railway axles and railway bearings with dimensions being significantly out of original manufacture tolerances.